

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing user-chosen telephone services on a digital cable TV set-top box, comprising the steps of:

5 scanning for a downstream channel by a set-top box;
synchronizing with the downstream channel by the set-top box;
synchronizing with the service provider's telephone network by the set-top box;
downloading programs and data to the set-top box by the service provider;
executing the programs downloaded to the set-top box by the user to select a

10 telephone service;

entering data selections made by the user in the set-top box;

storing the user selections in the set-top box; and

using the user selections by the set-top box to provide a telephone service to the user.

2. The method as in claim 1, wherein the step of storing the user selections in the set-top box comprises the step of:

storing the user selections in a storage medium removably coupled to the set-top box.

3. The method as in claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

removing the storage medium from the set-top box; and

inserting the removed storage medium in a second set-top box, thereby achieving a functionality in the second set-top box similar in nature to the first set-top box.

4. Computer-executable program code stored on a computer-readable medium, said program code configured to provide consumer-chosen telephone services on a digital cable TV set-top box, comprising:

code to scan for a downstream channel;

code to synchronize with the downstream channel;

code to synchronize with a service provider's telephone network;

code to download programs and data to the set-top box;

code to enable a user to select a telephone service;
code to enter user' s selections in the set-top box;
code to store the user' s selections in the set-top box; and
code to use the user' s selections to provide a telephone service to the user.

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5. A method of providing user-chosen telephone services on a digital cable
TV

set-top box comprising the steps of:

receiving from a user a subscription to telephone services offered by a service
10 provider; and
receiving from the user a request for telephone services.